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1. Appreciate suggestion contained reftel and General Norstad's willingness visit Berlin. We also had been thinking of such a visit as one of a series of steps West could take.

2. As regards timing, Dept is inclined to feel that a visit at this early stage in game, when Soviets may be testing Western reaction, might indicate undue anxiety on part of West. Therefore believe that visit should be held in reserve for time being in order that it could later be employed if necessary as a concrete reassuring symbol of Western determination hold Berlin.

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